

From the
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

PCT

To:

see form PCT/ISA/220

WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY
(PCT Rule 43bis.1)

Date of mailing
(day/month/year) see form PCT/ISA/210 (second sheet)

Applicant's or agent's file reference
see form PCT/ISA/220

FOR FURTHER ACTION
See paragraph 2 below

International application No
PCT/L2004/000949

International filing date (day/month/year)
14.10.2004

Priority date (day/month/year)
14.10.2003

International Patent Classification (IPC) or both national classification and IPC
E04H4/16

Applicant
MAYTRONICS LTD

1. This opinion contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the opinion
- ☒ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis 1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☒ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☐ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

2 FURTHER ACTION

If a demand for international preliminary examination is made, this opinion will usually be considered to be a written opinion of the International Preliminary Examining Authority ("IPEA"). However, this does not apply where the applicant chooses an Authority other than this one to be the IPEA and the chosen IPEA has notified the International Bureau under Rule 66 1bis(b) that written opinions of this International Searching Authority will not be so considered.

If this opinion is, as provided above, considered to be a written opinion of the IPEA, the applicant is invited to submit to the IPEA a written reply together, where appropriate, with amendments, before the expiration of three months from the date of mailing of Form PCT/ISA/220 or before the expiration of 22 months from the priority date, whichever expires later.

For further options, see Form PCT/ISA/220

3 For further details, see notes to Form PCT/ISA/220.

Name and mailing address of the ISA:



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WRITTEN OPINION OF THE
INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITYInternational application No.
PCT/IL2004/000949

IAP20 Res. 13 APR 2006

Box No. 1 Basis of the opinion

1. With regard to the **language**, this opinion has been established on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
 - ☐ This opinion has been established on the basis of a translation from the original language into the following language , which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b)).
2. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application and necessary to the claimed invention, this opinion has been established on the basis of:
 - a. type of material:
 - ☐ a sequence listing
 - ☐ table(s) related to the sequence listing
 - b. format of material:
 - ☐ in written format
 - ☐ in computer readable form
 - c. time of filing/furnishing:
 - ☐ contained in the international application as filed.
 - ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
 - ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority for the purposes of search.
3. ☐ In addition, in the case that more than one version or copy of a sequence listing and/or table relating thereto has been filed or furnished, the required statements that the information in the subsequent or additional copies is identical to that in the application as filed or does not go beyond the application as filed, as appropriate, were furnished.
4. Additional comments:

Box No. II Priority

1. ☐ The following document has not been furnished:
- ☐ copy of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis 1 and 66.7(a)).
 - ☐ translation of the earlier application whose priority has been claimed (Rule 43bis.1 and 66.7(b)).
- Consequently it has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim. This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.
2. ☐ This opinion has been established as if no priority had been claimed due to the fact that the priority claim has been found invalid (Rules 43bis.1 and 64.1). Thus for the purposes of this opinion, the international filing date indicated above is considered to be the relevant date.
3. ☒ It has not been possible to consider the validity of the priority claim because a copy of the priority document was not available to the ISA at the time that the search was conducted (Rule 17.1). This opinion has nevertheless been established on the assumption that the relevant date is the claimed priority date.
4. Additional observations, if necessary:

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Rule 43bis.1(a)(i) with regard to novelty, Inventive step or Industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes: Claims	10,12-33,35,36
	No: Claims	1-9,11,34,37-47
Inventive step (IS)	Yes: Claims	
	No: Claims	1-47
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes: Claims	1-47
	No: Claims	

2. Citations and explanations

see separate sheet

Box No. VI Certain documents cited

1. Certain published documents (Rules 43bis.1 and 70.10)

and /or

2. Non-written disclosures (Rules 43bis.1 and 70.9)

see form 210

Re Item V.

- 1 The following documents are referred to in this communication:
D1 : FR 2 685 374 A (NICOLOFF PIERRE) 25 June 1993 (1993-06-25)
D2 : EP 1 122 382 A (INTERNAT CARATTI S R L) 8 August 2001 (2001-08-08)

2 INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 1 AND 39

- 2.1 The present application does not meet the criteria of Article 33(1) PCT, because the subject-matter of claim 1 is not new in the sense of Article 33(2) PCT.
Document D1 discloses (see the corresponding passages cited in the search report)

a cleaning robot adapted to move in a swimming pool or the like in accordance with commands from a main controller therein (11, 12, 13), the robot when in use being free of any cables connected to an external power supply, and having a body unit with a battery power pack (15), adapted to move along the floor and walls of said pools (cf. D1, p.3/l.33), and a tail unit comprising a head portion adapted to float on the surface of a pool (cf. D1, p.4/l.33: flotteur), and a tethering cable (cf. D1, p.4/l.32: cordelette) attached at least in use, to the body unit, said tethering cable being of sufficient length to allow the float of said head portion while the body unit is on the floor the pool.

Therefore, the subject-matter of claim 1 is known from D1.

3 INDEPENDENT CLAIMS 41-47

- 3.1 Since the features of the subject-matter of claims 42-47 are the same or corresponding to the features of the cleaning robot as defined in claim 1, these claims neither fulfill the requirements of Article 33(1) PCT, see also document D2 and the corresponding passages cited in the search report.

4 DEPENDENT CLAIMS 2-38 AND 40

- 4.1 Dependent claims 2-38 and 40 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of novelty and/or inventive step, since they are known or rendered obvious by the available prior art, cf. documents D1 and D2 and their corresponding passages cited in the search report.